

ON

TINEA CAPITIS,

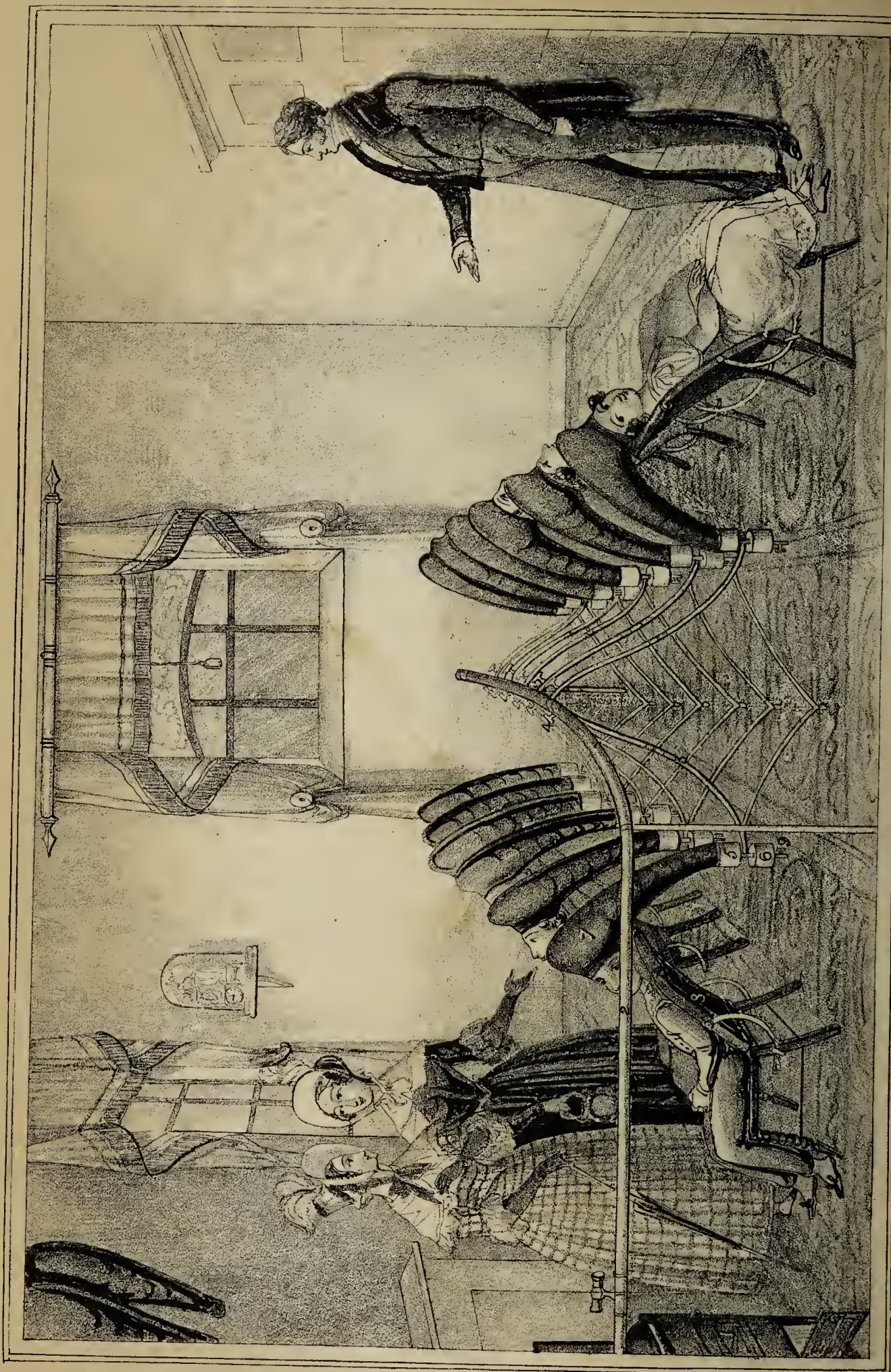
OR

RINGWORM.









MR WELCH'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF SCALD-HEAD. RING-WORM

Don & Stanley Lithographers

AND OTHER DISEASES OF THE SKIN



7

A  
POPULAR TREATISE  
ON  
TINEA CAPITIS,  
OR,  
RINGWORM.

WITH  
A CLASSIFICATION OF THE FORMS UNDER WHICH IT MANIFESTS  
ITSELF, A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE THEORY OF  
INFLAMMATION AND INFECTION;

AND A DESCRIPTION OF  
A MEDICATED STEAM BATH,  
INVENTED BY THE AUTHOR,  
FOR THE TREATMENT AND CURE OF DISEASES OF THE SCALP.

By I. A. WELCH,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AND LICENCIATE OF  
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TO

SIR BENJAMIN C. BRODIE, BART. F.R.S.

SERJEANT SURGEON TO HER MAJESTY,

SENIOR SURGEON TO ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL,

&c. &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

On the receipt of the last proof-sheet of the pages explanatory of my practical views in the treatment of *Tinea Capitis*, I hesitated, even upon the threshold of publication, convinced that an unremitting attention to my private practice in a path hitherto comparatively untrodden, must ultimately obtain me a professional distinction to which I had not courage to think that my public claims as an author would ever advance me. The arrival of your kind letter from Paris has fixed my wavering purpose, and attached a value, even in my own estimation; to a literary effort honoured by the approval of Sir Benjamin Brodie.

Mystery, my dear sir, in the profession of any art or science, is but another term for weakness or ignorance; and though it may appear unnecessary for an author to disclaim empiricism, of whose work you have accepted the dedication, yet, in justice to so distinguished a Member of the Profession as yourself, I deem it my duty implicitly to state, anticipating the acknowledgment in the body of my work, that the *mode of applying the local means* acknowledged by the best authorities as essential to the treatment of Porrigo, in its various forms, through the medium of a vaporous agent, is the chief claim to novelty in the system of,

My dear sir,

Yours, very gratefully,

J. A. WELCH.



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## PREFACE.

AWARE that any one, who for a series of years has devoted his time to a favourite and engrossing pursuit, is apt to attach importance to circumstances and results connected with and arising from his labours, which, in general estimation, would appear uninteresting and trifling; I should have gone on to the termination of my medical career, without obtruding my opinions or experiments upon the notice of the reading public, had not the complete success of my mode of treatment in cases of *tinea capitis*, and the consequent

increase of my practice to an extent that gives me every reason to believe it will shortly accumulate beyond the scope of an individual's attention, led me to conclude that its publication became a duty, its diffusion a public good. I therefore venture to send into the world my first humble essay at authorship; but while I confess my doubts of literary efficiency for the task, and acknowledge the following pages to be the production of an unpractised writer, I may be permitted to remark, that they are not the crude suggestions of a mere theorist; and I confidently anticipate the universal adoption of a system which, within the range of a very extensive practice, has stood the test of time and reiterated experiment.

It has been said that, "he who makes two blades of grass grow where but one has grown



before, has a claim upon the gratitude of his country." It is a fair inference that the labours of so humble an individual as myself may not be deemed valueless, having been directed to the object of reducing, by one disease, the catalogue of human afflictions.

The subject may, probably, at no very distant period, engage the attention of some talented members of the medical profession, when a cause may be ascertained for the fact that a disease, formerly associated only with the filth and squalor of families huddled together in close neighbourhoods, and in ill-ventilated rooms, and distinguished by their habits of idleness and dirt, has been, for a long series of years, gaining ground in families, to whom, from their position in society, extreme cleanliness and perfect ventilation are matters of course. It is, however, undeniable that

whenever the subject of *tinea* is mentioned in the most respectable society, the party addressed is sure to acknowledge that some member of his own family, or of his immediate connection is suffering under its pestiferous influence.

The subject of endermic medication is at present engaging the attention of many scientific men, whose investigation will doubtless lead to highly-interesting results, confirmatory, or the reverse, of the benefits to be expected from the adoption of a method frequently resorted to by the Continental physicians. The influence of medicine upon the system at large, administered through the absorbent vessels in different cases of Chronic Disease, Intermittent Fever, Gastritis, &c. may obviate the necessity of administering remedies by the stomach, when delirium or exhaustion in the patient

prevents the possibility of the usual mode of their exhibition, or when the components of the medicine are liable to be neutralized by the contents of the stomach, or counteracted by the digestive organs generally. I entertain strong hopes that a considerable advance in practical therapeutics will eventually be made by the extensive use of endermic medication; the direction of the means it suggests has been the engrossing study of the chief portion of my life; and the uniform success attendant upon its adoption in diseases of the scalp, the occasion of my thus introducing to public notice my invention of a Medicated Steam Bath for the cure of *Tinea Capitis* in all its tedious and disgusting stages.

In the following pages I have endeavoured to condense into as close a form as might be consistent with distinctness and perspicuity,



all the information upon the subject of Ringworm, which I thought a general reader would find interesting, or acknowledge to be useful. In the definition and classification of the causes and appearances of cutaneous affections, my liberal brethren will perceive that I have written for the information of the non-medical reader, and pardon an apparent laxity in professional arrangement, and an occasional deviation from the prescribed technicalities and rules of art. The intelligent portion of the public, for whose use and guidance this little work has been attempted, should they decide that its contents have neither usefulness of information, nor simplicity of detail, will do me but justice in believing that my failure is not attributable to the want of an earnest desire, or the most strenuous efforts within the limits of my humble

ability, to render it distinguishable for both.

I have been at a considerable expense in procuring drawings from life, illustrative of the different forms and stages of Ringworm; accurate plates, engraved from them, are placed opposite the description in the text; and it is my fervent hope that by their aid this little volume may be rendered a compendium of useful information to all (and the circle is an extensively-diffused one) who may be interested in the extermination of a disease which the maternal part of the community justly regard as the contaminating plague-spot of the rising generation.

J. A. WELCH.

*Terrace, Dalston,*

*September* 1837.





## INTRODUCTION.

It would be difficult to select from the vocabulary of Cutaneous Diseases the name of one which has less engaged the attention of practical Therapeutists, than the *Tinea Capitis*. The inert character of this chronic inflammation, and the apparent inefficiency of the general routine of treatment, acting upon the fretful impatience of parents and others interested in the cure of this tedious, lothesome disease, have induced a confidence in the pretensions of charlatans, and a consequent increase to the catalogue,

already sufficiently voluminous, of empirical nostrums.

Impressed with the conviction that in the treatment of *tinea* an incontestible field lay open for the labours of a medical practitioner, I have, for a considerable time, devoted my best energies to the developement of a curative process based upon principles so scientific as to ensure me, I trust, the approval and co-operation of my professional brethren; while I am emboldened to hope that its simplicity, manifestly-progressive effect, and facility of application, will make a direct appeal to the common sense and general intelligence of all the non-medical part of the community, whose interests, directly or contingently, may be involved in the extermination of this contagious pest.

I cordially invite the medical world to an inspection of the apparatus constituting the mechanical adjunct to my system of cure; and of which a descriptive plate is given at page 47. The superficial critic may be inclined to attribute a degree of empiricism to a system which, *prima facie*, appears to profess an universal application. But the intelligent practitioner will see, at a glance, that a modification of treatment may be adapted to each individual case; and that the medical supervisor of a mass of patients brought simultaneously under his inspection, is in a highly favorable position for the study of comparative diagnosis.

I conclude this brief address to the Profession by the assurance that, had a mere love of popularity given birth to my project, the stimulus

would not have been sufficiently active to support me under the mental exertion and pecuniary sacrifices consequent upon the task of bringing it to maturity.—I felt my principle to be right,—I submitted it to the test of experiment.—My success, in a very extensive practice, has confirmed my opinion of its utility; and I send it forth to the world, confident of obtaining an acknowledgement from the liberal portion of my brethren in the profession, that I have strengthened their hands, and enlarged the sphere of their usefulness. I will also, at the hazard of incurring the charge of arrogance, confess my indulgence in the hope that my humble name may, however low in the list, be registered with those of the philanthropists, my predecessors, who have gained distinction by their successful efforts to eradicate a portion of “the thousand ills that flesh is heir to,” and



who by superinducing a mitigation in the character and symptoms of a disease have abridged the sufferings of afflicted humanity.







*Scumous*  
or

FURFURACEOUS STATE OF RINGWORM.

*after ineffectual applications*

Miss W.  
Bloomsbury Sq.  
Aug<sup>r</sup> 1833



## HINTS TO PARENTS

BEFORE I enter upon the subject of *cure*, I will address a few words to those who have the superintendence of children, upon the means of *prevention*; among the first, and most essential of which, is, *a strict and rigid regard to cleanliness*.

Ringworm, in its most common and annoying form, that of “*Tinea favosa*,” is contagious: The association of your children with others whose habits are dirty, and whose parents are regardless of that most imperative duty, the purification of the skin, should be strictly interdicted. A careful and anxious mother will instinctively

discover the first signs of disease in her offspring: to such it will be sufficient to say that, should contagion be suspected, her safest plan will be to administer a gentle purgative composed of one or two grains of calomel, with eight or ten grains of jalap, according to the age of the child, and to bathe the affected part well with hot vinegar and water. The infectious nature of the disease will render it necessary to keep the child whose contamination is suspected apart from its brothers and sisters; no towel, comb, or hair brush, must be used in common. Care must, however, be taken to avoid the appearance of a harsh restraint: every thing that may tend to depress the child's *spirits* will tend also to retard the *cure*. Let it have every possible freedom consistent with the safety of its playfellows. Exercise in the open air should be daily taken by the patient; and if on a pony,

or donkey, so much the better. Horse exercise being promotive of perspiration, gives increased action to the glands immediately connected with the skin, and corroborates the means of cure.—Should the symptoms in any degree yield to the above mode of treatment, by persisting in it, a healthy action of the affected part will be gradually restored: should the disease, on the contrary, exhibit aggravated symptoms, an approach to its disgusting stage may be dreaded, and professional advice will become necessary.

In all cases of cutaneous affection, a milk and farinaceous diet will greatly assist in the process of cure.

Mothers and persons having the care of children are apt to feel great discouragement at the protraction of their apparently useless efforts towards the subjugation of the symptoms

in this hateful disease. Should they, however, disheartened at the small *progress* made, discontinue those efforts, the patient's *retrogression* will unequivocally demonstrate the necessity of their renewal.







*Tinea Annularis*

or

COMMON RINGWORM.

*Mus. L.*

*Dec. 1836*

## HINTS

*For the guidance of Mothers and Nurses in distinguishing the appearance of Cutaneous Diseases.*

*Tinea Annulare*—RINGWORM, is a chronic inflammation, mostly appearing on the scalp, in *circular* groups of small pustules; which pustules dry under the form of thin and rather loose crusts. The child attacked by this disease is apt to scratch the scalp; hence, by inoculation, new groups of pustules are formed, which, if the disease be unattended to, increase rapidly in numbers, and finally unite into a mass. When, through neglect, the scalp becomes deeply lace-

rated, the pilous follicles (the pores of the skin) are destroyed, and baldness is the result. This disease is highly contagious; but want of cleanliness, accumulation of dandriff, and a general constitutional pre-disposition, may induce its spontaneous developement, without inoculation by contact.







*Tinea Favosa.*

or

HONEYCOMB RINGWORM.

Mast. M.  
June 1837

*Tinea-favosa*,—so called from a fancied resemblance to the honey-comb, exhibits itself in very minute pustules, the tops of which soon change into yellow adhesive crusts, each hollowed into the form of a cup. These are sometimes isolated; sometimes they run together, forming large masses of incrustation. When the pustules are suffered, through neglect or improper treatment, to accumulate, the whole head becomes covered with a filthy incrustation. As the crusts become old, they detach themselves from the scalp, in powder, like the flour of sulphur. The pustules and crusts in this complaint give out an intolerably fetid odour. The ordinary treatment of *Tinea-favosa*, by emollient cataplasms, hemlock poultices, pinguid applications of cantharides, ammonia, mercury, &c. generally leave this obstinate and revolting disease with unmitigated symptoms and unaltered character.

*Tinea Granulata* — Scalled Head, — differs from *Tinea-favosa* in the nature of its pustules, which are more superficial and irregular. They form, when dry, brown or grey crusts, which have not the crater-like form of *Favus*, are easily detached, and are frequently found loose among the hair, falling from it in a coarse powder, like the crumbling of old and dirty mortar. This form of *Tinea* is not, like the *Tinea-favosa*, contagious, nor is it of so common occurrence. It is principally confined to the children of the poor and dirty. It yields more readily to medical treatment than *Tinea-favosa*.



*Tinea Parulata?*

or

SCALDED HEAD RINGWORM.









*Tinea Mucosa*

TETTEROUS OR VESICULOUS RINGWORM.

*Miss J. S.*

*March 1837.*

*Tinea Mucosa*—Milk Scall,—is distinguished by small pustules on the face or scalp, abounding in a serous humour, which, on its discharge, glues the hair into ropy masses. When dry, the pustules form crusts of a brown or yellow tinge.

This disease sometimes appears upon the face, in which case it generally breaks out upon the forehead and cheeks in small white pustules, in clusters, which at first hardly rise above the level of the skin; these soon assume a reddish tint, and about the sixth day, break, exuding a sero-purulent humour which, on drying, becomes crustaceous and of a yellow or greenish tint. Should this form of *Tinea* be neglected, the groups of pustules agglomerate till the face becomes covered with an incrustated mask. A disposition to heal spontaneously is demon-

strated by a diminished discharge of the pustules, and the falling, without a consequent reproduction, of the crusts. When unattended to, Mucous Tinea of the scalp assumes a chronic character, the pilous follicles become injured or destroyed, and partial or total baldness ensues.







*Porrigi decalvans*  
or  
BALD HEAD RINGWORM.

James H. Eng<sup>d</sup>  
Sept 20 1836.

The *Porrigo decalvans*,—is the least disgusting form in which Tinea exhibits itself, though it is one of the most tedious and unyielding. Circular patches of baldness are its characteristics, the denuded portions of the scalp presenting a clean and apparently wholesome aspect. When two of these circular patches are so contiguous that their peripheries meet at a tangent, that is, when they resemble two half crowns placed so closely together that their edges touch, the circumferential lines unite, and the two patches gradually blend into one circle. This process insidiously advancing, the greater part of the scalp becomes infected, the denuded portion exhibiting a clean, shining, and preternaturally white appearance.

This disease, unlike the different forms of Tinea already described, is not of a superficial

character; no eruption or external inflammation preceding or attending it. It is a subcutaneous disease, originating below the epidermis or scarf skin. Its cause involves a number of conflicting hypotheses, and, as a natural consequence, little progress has hitherto been made towards a rationally systematic mode of cure.

From the preceding summary it will appear that *Tinea-favosa* is the form in which Ringworm most frequently manifests itself, exhibiting, in that form, the most malignant symptoms and offering resistance of the greatest obstinacy to the ordinary treatment of the disease.

ON

## CUTICULAR INFLAMMATION,

*Its progressive developement and consequences.*

A CLASSIFICATION of all the appearances under which inflammation of the skin may be developed, would more probably confuse than enlighten the general reader; the aspects which it most frequently assumes, under maternal observation, will therefore only be treated of.

## PUSTULOUS INFLAMMATION.

When a sero-purulent humour (matter) exudes spontaneously, or by pressure, from the



inflamed elevations of the skin, the inflammation is designated pustulous. This humour sluggishly dries into a hard, crustaceous form, frequently the treacherous covering to deep ulceration. The different forms of inflammation may be confounded with each other, and may even appear, in a combined form, together; the complication, in this case, having no influence over the individual progress of each disease.

Pustulous diseases are of variable duration. In *Variola*, Small Pox, *Varicella*, Chicken Pox, and in *Vaccina*, or Cow Pox, the inflammation is acute, and terminable within a calculable period. In *Impetigo*, tetters inflammation, *Acne Rosacea*, carbuncled face, and in *Tinea Favosa*, *Porrigio Lupinosa*, or honey-comb Tinea, it is always of a tediously-chronic character.

### *Summary.*

*Commencement.*—Pustulous elevations of the skin, often surrounded by small areas of inflammation. These pustules are formed by the deposition of a sero-purulent humour between the scarf-skin and inflamed *rete mucosum*, (the mucous net or tissue lying between the *epidermis* or cuticle, and the *dermis* or true skin.)

*Progress.*—Gradual desiccation, or drying up of the sero-purulent humour.

*Chronic Stage.*—Sluggish ulcers, covered by indurated crusts.

TETTEROUS OR VESICULOUS INFLAMMATION,  
Is characterised by small vesicles which contain a serous or watery humour. A redness of

the skin surrounding the vesicles is generally observable till their maturity, when they burst, exuding serum of a reddish tint, and are succeeded by plates or scales of a colour inclining to yellow. In the chronic stage, the inflammation increases upon the rupture of the vesicles, the skin giving out, continually, a thin, acrid discharge, which at times is so abundant as to saturate the linen applied to the affected parts. Under this species of inflammation, the hair of the scalp becomes matted by the viscous humour exuding from the vesicles; and when finally the secretion ceases, upon rubbing or combing the matted hair, small bran-like particles are detached from it, a permanent state of desquamation or scaliness ensues, the skin exhibiting, on the removal of the scales by the aid of a comb, a red and highly-inflamed appearance. A long continuance of vesiculous

inflammation may injure the pilous follicles, and induce a falling off of the hair.

*Summary.*

*Incipient stage.*—Circular patches of inflammation, accompanied by heat and itching, followed by the appearance, in groups, of transparent vesicles containing a thin, serous humour.

*Progress.*—Increasing inflammation of the dermis. Violent and implacable itching. Cracking of the skin. Laceration, the consequence of the patient's irrepressible tendency to scratch the affected parts.—Successive reproduction of the epidermis, and detachment in lamellæ or squamous plates.

*Chronic Stage.*—Permanently inflamed cuticle, *squamæ*, scaly exfoliations of the epidermis or desquamation.



ON THE DECEPTIOUS APPEARANCES OF  
CUTANEOUS DISEASES.

THE maternal heads of families, for whose guidance these pages have principally been written, must not allow the preceding descriptions to frighten them into a belief that the consequences given as the results of extreme cases, are necessarily attendant upon every case that may fall within their cognizance.

It has been my study throughout this brief address to avoid, as much as possible, the use of technical phrases; but I feel that I shall advance its object by dwelling, for a moment,

upon the *Idiopathic* and *Symptomatic* forms of disease; the former arising from appearances which, to every medical man, are the prognosis of a primary, defined, and unequivocal disease; the latter affording, from the disputable nature of its *symptoms*, a rational cause for argument, upon a ground where even "Doctors" might "disagree." In a word, the terms may be explained as *incontrovertible* and *hypothetical*. An interested and anxious observer may be led by superficial appearances to the conclusion that a disease is established, of which only *equivocal* symptoms are exhibited; it frequently happens, in consequence, that a furious attack is made upon the *symptoms*, while the *cause* is left to "a clear stage," though the quotation cannot be followed up by the stipulated consequence in the old English maxim, "no favour." Thus, in cases of cutaneous affection of the

scalp, an irritating course of external friction is often pursued, calculated to aggravate the symptoms of a malady, which an attention to the general functional action might have destroyed *in limine*. An appeal, in the incipient stage of the complaint, to a confidential medical adviser, will, of course, render the hints thrown out unnecessary; and I close my address with a repetition of the fact, that a derangement in the action of the alimentary canal may cause (as all internal derangements tend to a superficial demonstration) a cutaneous eruption, defying the efforts of a host of empirics, with all their “appliances and means to boot,” and rapidly spreading, in despite of salves, poultices, and plaisters, which a proper attention to the state of the digestive organs would, in a few days, deprive of its alarming character.



THE COMMUNICABILITY  
OF  
CUTANEOUS DISEASE.

*Classification of its Causes, &c.*

A healthy subject is liable to the pestilential influence of *Tinea* by

CONTAMINATION,	INFECTION,
CONTAGION,	INOCULATION.

*Contamination.*

THE communication of a disease by any intermediate means, is classed under the head of Contamination. For instance, the application of a towel, comb, or hair-brush



to the face or scalp of a healthy child, which towel, &c. had been used in the service of a subject already infected. The caution, therefore, given in the early part of this treatise, is earnestly repeated; and superintendents of the nursery are strictly enjoined to avoid every possible medium of communication between the healthy and the infected children under their guardianship or control.

### *Contagion,*

Although, literally, nearly synonymous with the preceding definition, is considered, technically, to imply the propagation of disease from one individual to another by actual contact. When, therefore, a partial contamination is known or suspected, upon the principle which induces the vigilant shepherd to abstract one

tainted wether from his flock, in order to save the whole from infection; the tender solicitude of a watchful mother for the welfare of her children generally, will suggest the necessity of a temporary separation of the healthful from the contaminated members of her family.

### *Infection.*

Infection is the propagation of disease by effluvia arising from an impregnated atmosphere. Under whatever circumstances, therefore, children are likely to be congregated, a perfectly free ventilation should be the predominant object of a parent's solicitude.

### *Inoculation.*

The insertion of *virus* into the system by *puncture*, is called Inoculation.

The insertion of the variolous, or vaccine, (the small, or cow-pox) by means of a lancet, is a process familiar to every one; but an effect intentionally produced with the happiest consequences in general, may be accidentally brought about with lamentable results:\* indeed, there can be little doubt that the idea of the

\* A case immediately bearing upon the subject of inoculation having recently occurred within my own personal cognizance and experience, I am emboldened to hope that I may not be deemed obtrusive in relating it, although, in so doing, I must necessarily speak of myself as the chief agent and *patient* in the narrative.

On the twenty-fifth of April last, after minutely examining the head of a young lady, a patient, under a case of chronic *tinea favosa*, the forceps with which I had raised the incrustated mass covering the scalp, accidentally fell from my hand, and in the endeavour to recover the instrument before it reached the ground, I imprudently grasped it by the point, which, in consequence, slightly wounded my thumb. The pressure of business prevented my notice of an accident which, at the time, occasioned me but slight inconvenience. In the

voluntary communication of morbid *virus* to the system was suggested to the first operator by some felicitous accident. It is impossible to prevent children, in the early stage of *tinea*,

middle of the night I awoke in extreme agony, occasioned by an intense throbbing and burning heat, extending from the first *phalanx* of the thumb to the *axilla* of the right arm. The circumstance of the morning now rushed upon my recollection, and I became painfully aware of all the possible consequences of *inoculation*. The attendant fever subsided about the fourth or fifth day, when a slight eruption became visible immediately in the vicinity of, and surrounding, the puncture occasioned by the forceps. On the eighth day, pustules of a tetterous nature began to form about the chin and under the throat; in a day or two more, a sero-purulent humour was discharged by the pustules, followed by incrustation of the precise character of the disease which had furnished the *virus* wherewith I had involuntarily impregnated my system,

The pain and inconvenience attendant upon this *contre temps* I had to endure for upwards of three weeks; but at the end of my *probation*, the sense of suffering was merged in the pleasure arising from the additional testimony afforded in my own case of the efficiency and rapidity of my mode of cure.



from scratching the affected part; hence a single pustule may be the precursor of hundreds, planted, as it were, by the nails of the child, which, at the moment that they *dig* a hole in the healthy portion of the scalp, convey to the puncture the virus collected under them in their contact with the original sore.



## SUGGESTIONS,

*Independent of the received Theory of Infection.*

THE object of this treatise being professedly of a popular nature, I have avoided, as much as possible, all controversial points, and abstained from a nicety of definition which might occasionally have subjected me to the charge of having laboured at "a distinction without a difference." The conscientious medical man will assign its real motive to the brevity of my remarks; the general reader will, I hope, derive from the perusal of them the information which it has been my study to condense

*Amesbury*

into a form as little repulsive, in consequence of its bulk, as possible.

The general theory of contagion having been cursorily treated of, I have to advance the fact, which an unusually-extensive practice in cutaneous diseases has rendered familiar to me, that *Tinea* is not, *necessarily*, the consequence of any or either of the above-mentioned *media* of communication; but that the disease may be superinduced upon a constitution pre-disposed to excitement by the effect of *transition* merely. A simple illustration will stand in lieu of a long theoretical analysis of the principle here contended for. Children in heated rooms, at schools, for instance, on real or pretended occasions, frequently quit the apartment in which they are engaged, and rush from a high temperature immediately into the open air. Any lurking predisposition in the system is

thus called into action by the effect of sudden *transition*; the head, with its reeking pores, the most exposed part of the body, becomes the unprotected recipient of the “skyey influence;” and, like the cratur of a volcano, throws off, in fiery eruptions, the pent-up impurities of the constitution.

It is also certain that the disease is never either infectious or cantagious, except in its incipient stage, when the sero-purulent humour exuded from the pustules becomes foetid through decomposition, the consequence of its exposure to the atmosphere.



## DISEASES OF THE SCALP.

*Ringworm, &c. Mode of Cure.*

## PREFATORY OBSERVATIONS.

HAD the energies of any intellectual member of my profession ever yet been exclusively devoted to the subject, I feel assured that a mode of treatment, in cases of *Tinea Capitis*, would, long before this, have been suggested, and that its adoption would have superseded my humble claim to the discovery of a system, simple and self-evident in its operation, and of a practically-demonstrable efficacy.



After the devotion of twenty-five years, the best portion of my life, to the duties of a general practitioner, in one of the most populous districts of the metropolis; and after having, within that time, had some thousands of the most aggravated cases under my care; I trust, that the acknowledgment of my determination to devote the residue of my professional existence to the cure of a disease, hitherto comparatively disregarded by the profession, will induce that portion of the public, to whom this little treatise is addressed, to reflect upon the motive of my appeal to their confidence and patronage, and upon the consequences in which such a declaration must necessarily, in a short space of time, involve the prospects and reputation of any medical man, whose system had not obtained the sanction of many distinguished practitioners, and whose theory was unsup-

ported by the evidence of facts elicited during a long course of professional experience.

I am aware that, by this public announcement, I render myself liable to the charge of having deviated from the strict rules of medical etiquette. I am anxious to maintain my respectability in the opinion of the Profession, and of the public generally. To the class first alluded to, I have only to say that, as mystery is the empiric's trade, I hope, by disclaiming all agency of an occult nature, and by cordially inviting the members of that body to an inspection of my apparatus, I shall stand acquitted of the selfish and exclusive motives which are the characteristics of the charlatan. While, to strengthen my claim to public confidence, I adduce the following authorities, in corroboration of the general principle which forms the basis of my system.

Dr. Bateman in his work upon cutaneous diseases, recommends “regular ablutions, or sponging with warm water, or some emollient fomentation.” The concurrent testimony of the ancient authors bears Dr. Bateman out in the latter recommendation. Most of the old writers advise the same treatment.—Orasbus, for instance, says, “If there is much heat and irritation connected with the actions, they must be first alleviated by a *moist* sedative.”

Mr. Lawrence in his lectures upon diseases of the skin recommends “soothing applications, tepid ablutions, or warm things of an emollient kind, such as warm bread and water, and mild unctuous applications, poultices generally,—bread and water poultices.” Mr. Lawrence, in the same lecture, further observes that “the complaint is a very obstinate and troublesome one, and a great deal will depend upon the care-

ful *application* of the *local* means that are used in the treatment of it."

The preceding extracts will demonstrate the concurrence of ancient and modern writers upon the subject in the opinion that *heat* and *moisture* are the essentials in all applications for the cure of cutaneous affections.

*The mode of application* forms a principal feature in my recently-perfected apparatus. It is a well-known chemical truth, that a large quantity of a peculiar oily matter is exuded through the *pores*, together with a considerable portion of water and carbon. To insist upon the fact, that *heat* applied to the skin will promote this transpiration of the pores, is unnecessary; every one, in the ordinary occurrences of life, having abundant proof of it. To cause perspiration, therefore, by artificial means, *applied immediately to the affected part*, is the

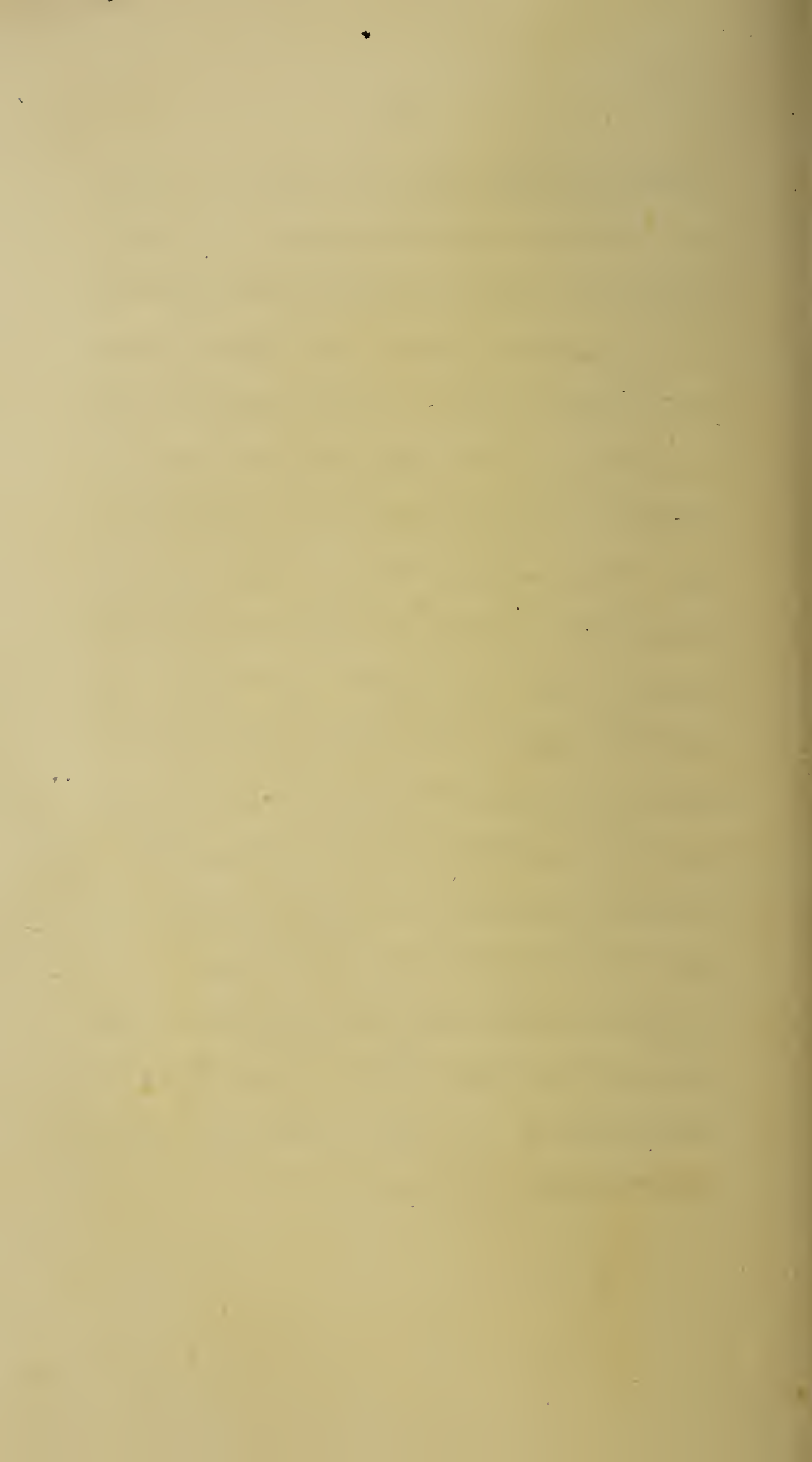


primary object of consideration. The apparatus which I am about to describe, has been constructed principally with a view to this essential point. I again urge the fact, that no "*mode of application*" has hitherto been adopted of "*the local means*" which the best authorities agree in assigning to the treatment of Ringworm. Poultices, in consequence of the burning heat generally attending this disease, rapidly lose their moisture by evaporation, becoming, very shortly after their application, hard and crisp, and, in that state, instead of emollients, acting as irritants to a denuded surface. Again, in the crustaceous form of the disease, the use of unctuous applications appears to be about as efficacious as the attempt to soften a lobster's shell by rubbing it with butter would be; or as the ancient mode of curing a wound by the anointment of the weapon that inflicted it.

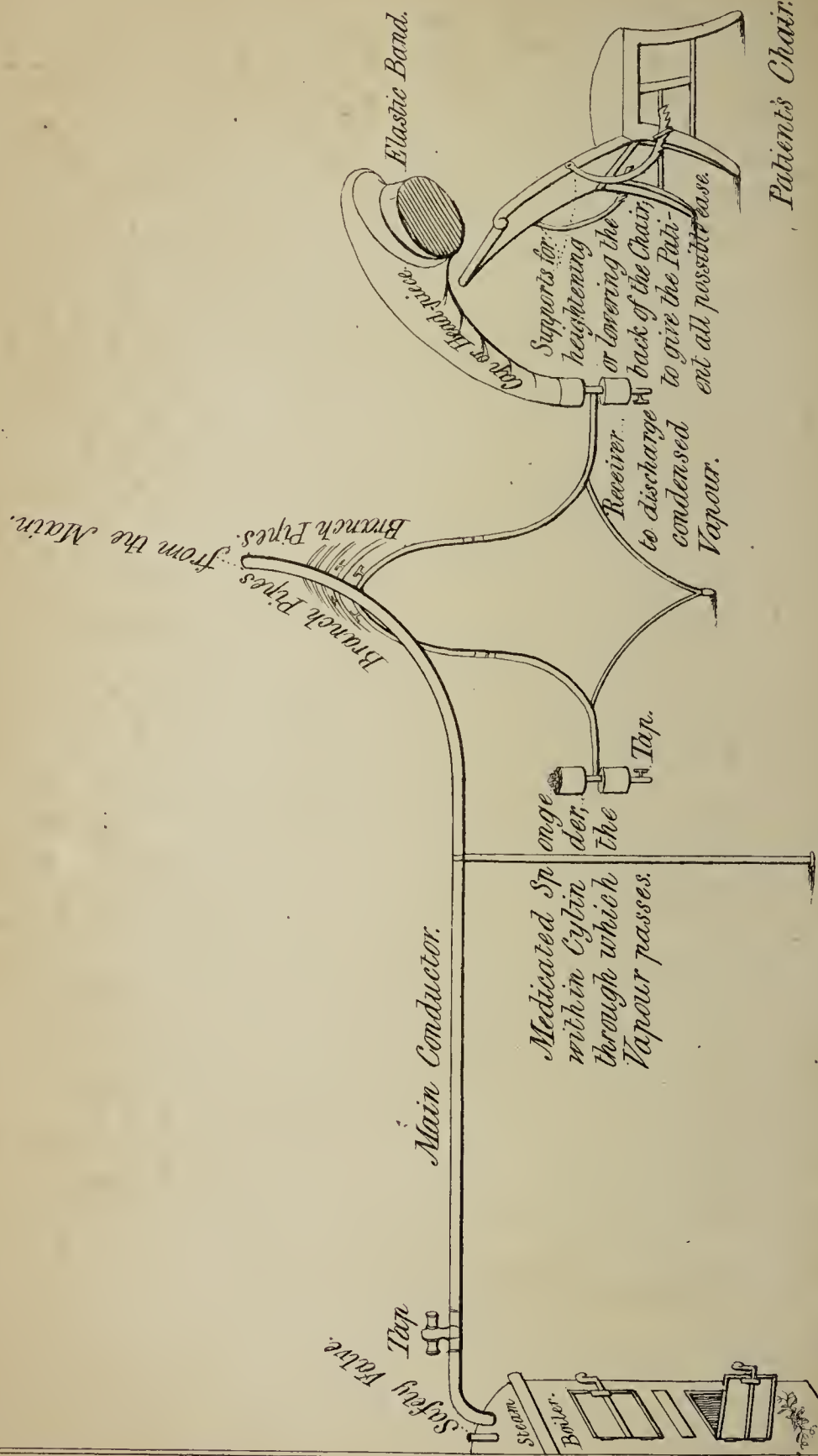


Mature reflection upon the inefficacy of the means hitherto, with little variation, universally employed in the treatment of this obstinate disease, confirmed me in the long-cherished opinion that a vaporous agent would be the best medium for the steady, effective, and *continuous* application of the acknowledged essentials, “*heat* and *moisture*, the most efficient cleanser of the morbid secretions, which in this disorder clog the pores and hinder the healthful action of the glands connected with the skin, and the most subtle conductor of the stimulating medicaments occasionally necessary to promote a re-action in the parts which have been deprived of their functional energy.

The result has been, the invention and construction of a MEDICATED STEAM BATH, to the description of which I will now, without further preface, proceed.







DESCRIPTION AND USE  
OF A  
MEDICATED STEAM BATH,

*For the Treatment and Cure of Diseases of the  
Scalp.*

A REFERENCE to the accompanying plate will render the description which follows, perfectly intelligible.

The Apparatus consists of a Steam Boiler, from which projects the main conductor, a large brass tube ramifying into twelve smaller pipes, each terminating in a cylinder. Every cylinder contains a sponge, medicated in pro-



portion to the urgency of the case, and removable when a bath of simple vapour only is required. To each of these cylinders is attached a receiver for the condensed steam, which, falling to the bottom in the form of water, is let off by a tap, and the possibility of an overflow prevented. Supporters are affixed to the branches from the main tube, and insure the firmness of the whole.

The patient's head is placed in a cap, so constructed, as to prevent the slightest escape of the vapour. The cap is fitted at its apex to one of the cylinders by an elastic band, the whole perfectly air-tight. This arrangement does not occasion the patient the least restraint, but allows an uncontrolled facility of motion when submitting to the action of the bath. The cap, though compressible into a very small compass when not in use, is, by a peculiarly

elegant adjustment of internal springs, rendered capable of such a degree of expansion, as to afford an area of two-and-a-half cubic feet for the collection of medicated vapour, thus brought into immediate action on the seat of disease. When fitted with a cap, the patient is placed in a reclining chair, which can be regulated to any required angle; the extremity of the cap is fixed (as has before been stated) to the cylinder, and the head is in a condition to undergo the process of the bath.

Each of the twelve branches has a stop-cock, by which the operator may regulate the heat, or, if necessary, instantly suspend the vaporous action. It is, therefore, manifest that the power of insulating each individual case gives the medical supervisor a discriminative control over all, the simplicity of the means conferring this power, preventing the possibility of em-

barrassment or confusion. To speak summarily, A single patient may, on admission to the bath, constructed for the treatment of twelve, have administered to him the proportionate quantum of medicated vapour essential to his individual case; and twelve patients, submitted simultaneously to its action, would each experience the individual advantage which, during the same period, would have been derived from its effects by one.

Presuming that the above description, in conjunction with the explanatory plate, will convey a tolerably general idea of the apparatus, I proceed to offer a few words upon the *rationale* of its application.

The water, heated in the copper to the boiling point, flies off in steam, and rushing through the main conductor and its ramifications, passes into the cylinders containing the

sponges saturated with the medicinal charges adapted, as the case may require, to the different patients, who may be each distinguished under a specific classification. The consequent heat disengages the component properties of the medicaments contained in the sponges, and causes their evolvment in a gaseous form. Two gases are therefore sent simultaneously into the caps worn by the patient; that arising from the medicated sponges being specifically heavier by many degrees than the mere aqueous vapour, and falling by the law of gravity, is caught in its descent by the projecting substance within the cavity of the cap, the head of the patient therefore becomes the recipient of the chemical agent employed by the medical director; the continued and uniform heat ensures its rapid and effectual absorption; and on removing the patient's cap, the effect exhi-



bited in the clear surface, unclogged pores, and generally healthful appearance of the scalp, will incontrovertibly demonstrate to all who witness the process, and are interested in the subject of these pages, the truth of the assertion that “the mode of *applying* the *local means*,” acknowledged by the best authorities as essential in the treatment of ringworm, has never before been practically brought to bear.

In cases of *Porrigo decalvans*, (vide page 17,) in which form, though Ringworm exhibits itself in its least offensive character, it is, under the ordinary mode of treatment, the most tedious and unyielding, I am happy to say that the rapidity of its cure by means of the medicated steam-bath would alone warrant me in giving publicity to the invention.

In the very early stage of the disease, and with children whose tender age renders them



unmanageable in the bath, the medicated sponges can be used without the agency of steam, the application, assisted by the agency of heat and moisture, being more frequently repeated; and the cure may, with a little more individual attention, be effected, if not so rapidly, with equal certainty as in the more summary process.

It is expressly stipulated on admission to the bath, that the patient must attend constantly and punctually at a certain hour daily until the completion of the cure, (a period varying, according to the case, from a fortnight to six weeks). The observance of every necessary rule is thus enforced, and a counteractive proceeding on the patient's part effectually prevented. The constant supervision of the disease, in all its *phases*, by a medical man, is too obvious an advantage to be dwelt upon.

A warm stimulating application to the scalp is occasionally necessary after the use of the bath; and as its effects might be controverted by a sudden exposure to atmospheric influence, the possibility of counteraction is guarded against by detaining the patient for a sufficient time to insure the benefit of the application.

The primary symptoms of the disease occasionally yielding to a mild antiphlogistic treatment, many parents are prejudiced against external applications generally, and entertain a feeling approaching to alarm at a course which they dignify with the title of an *operation*. To such I have to offer the assurance that an inspection of the apparatus, any morning between the hours of nine and ten, will convince them that it has the most pleasing influence on the feelings of the twelve individuals undergoing the process described in the preceding pages.

The perfectly unconstrained position in which they are placed, the cheerful conversation in which children, free from restraint, naturally indulge, and the highly-luxurious sensation arising from the use of the bath, render the whole process so pleasing and agreeable, that the juvenile patients frequently request a prolongation of its sedative effects far beyond the allotted period; and they invariably anticipate with delight a repetition of their enjoyment on the ensuing day.

A disease of so revolting a nature as that to which I have so long devoted my time and directed my observation, has little in its character to attract the attention of a medical man; a general disinclination, therefore, to the study of its disgusting and comparatively uninteresting details, may account for the unabated, nay, increasing malignity of a disease constituting

an anomaly in the present advanced state of medical science. I shall not then, I hope, incur the charge of arrogance or presumption, by the advance of my claim to originality in the suggestion of a plan for the treatment of a malady, when I acknowledge that, probably owing to the cause I have hinted at, I found myself the only one who considered its characteristics to be a subject worthy of scientific analysis.







*Tinea Favosa.*  
or

INCRUSTED STATE OF HONEYCOMB RINGWORM

*after applications of Gruel or Starch.*

*Miss K.*  
*Apr 24. 1837*

HAVING hinted, in a note under the head “Inoculation,” at a case of *Tinea*, accompanied by symptoms of the most aggravated nature, I subjoin an extract from my note-book, explanatory of the progress of the case.

“April 24th, 1837. Miss K——, of Cheapside, admitted to the bath. Chronic case of *Tinea favosa*, of four years’ standing. Disease in its most rancorous and malignant state: the entire scalp covered with a mass of incrustation. Sub-cutaneous inflammation, manifest upon pressure of the scalp by the bladder-like fluctuation under the finger. The morbid secretions vented through the fissures of the incrustated scalp yielding a nauseous effluvium.

25th.—Emollient effects of the bath unequivocally demonstrated:—Incrustation removable by scissors. On raising some of the indurated crusts, extreme depth of fissures visible in the direction of the portions of incrustation detached, presenting a bleeding surface.

Miss K——. stated that she had, for months, been unable to lie on her pillow, but was compelled to sleep in an erect position, and that her night-cap was constantly saturated with the serous discharge, which was accompanied with an intolerable fetor. Bath applied; evident decrease of cellular inflammation.—Diminished tension. 26th.—Discharge much diminished. Night-cap little soiled. Disposition to incrustation still manifest. 27th.—Discharge ceased; in other respects no alteration. 28th and 29th.—Itching of scalp mate-

rially diminished. Night-cap perfectly free from stain. 30th.—Tendency to desquamation exhibited. May 2nd.—Itching intirely subdued. 3rd,—4th,—5th,—6th,—7th,—and 8th.—No retrogression. From the last date continued improvement till completion of cure.

I am at liberty to refer to the parents of the young lady whose case I have selected, in consequence of its malignity and chronic character. Mr. K—— is a most respectable man, a man of general information, and an influential citizen. My connection with him was accidental, my acquaintance has been, up to the present moment, merely professional. I shall be happy to give his address to any medical man of repute, and will not withhold it from any one whom circumstances may render desirous of obtaining corroborative testimony in favour of the theory advanced in the preceding pages.



On a reference to the works of many of my predecessors, I find that a detail of cases appears to have been considered essential to the completion of a claim to public attention. I close mine with a solitary instance.

I hope I may not be mistaken, nor accused of invidiously reflecting upon the motives of others. A medical man must necessarily feel an unwillingness, in consequence of the revolting character of the disease forming the subject-matter of this little treatise, to give publicity to its detail in particular instances; and I offer, in lieu of a list of cases, to put my note-book into the hand of any intelligent enquirer, with the guarantee that upon the selection of a case under any particular name, the residence of the party shall be instantly given him, together with a reference to the parents or guardians of the patient.



A regular and systematic plan for the treatment of *Tinea Capitis* being, for the first time, submitted to public approval, public attention is respectfully, but earnestly and confidently directed to the practical simplicity of its application, and the demonstrable efficacy of its results.

SEVERAL distinguished members of the profession, whose names I am privileged to mention, have honored me by their concurrence and approbation. My own experience emboldens me to calculate upon the support and co-operation of my medical brethren generally in the developement of a system based upon scientific principles, and borne out by incon-

testible proof. I will not anticipate, I can hardly credit the possibility of, illiberal opposition! How incompatible with the pursuit of an art of so divine an origin as that in which we are engaged, appear the petty jealousies, the invidious spirit of opposition, for its own sake, alone, which prove

“ The sole intent

“ Was ” *not* “ to conquer,” *but* “ to circumvent.”

Should, however, some cynical son of Esculapius, on the perusal of this unpretending essay, “ shoot out the lip,” and sceptically ask “ cui bono,” I feel assured that on the well-authenticated reply, “ the public generally,” the members of a liberal profession will, in the common cause, merge all personal considerations, and by combining their forces for the common good, ensure the advantages which eventually must accrue, when the efforts

of an enlightened and experienced body are brought unitedly to bear against the stronghold of quackery and imposition.

FINIS.

